

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tu et al. (US 6,579,791). Claims 10-16 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tu et al. (US 6,579,791) in view of Steiner et al. (US 6,432,814). Claims 6-9 and 17-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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1. Rejection of Claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. 112:

To overcome this 112 rejection, Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. The word "predetermined" that is found indefinite by the Examiner has been cancelled from these claims. No new matter is introduced. Reconsideration of Claims 1-23 is therefore politely requested.

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2. Drawing objection:

The drawings are objected to because the lines are not clear regarding the contact holes 152.

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In reply to this, two replacement sheets including readable FIG.1 and FIG.2 are respectfully submitted (the contact holes 152 are only presented in FIG.1 and FIG.2). No changes on the merits are made to the drawings. Reconsideration of the re-submitted drawings is politely requested.

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3. Rejection of claims 1 under 102(e):

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), for reasons of record that can be found on page 3 in the Office action identified above, which is part of paper No.1203.

5 To overcome this objection, Claim 1 has been amended. The limitation in Claim 6 that is found allowable by the Examiner has been added into Claim 1. No new matter is introduced. Reconsideration of the once-amended claim 1 is therefore respectfully requested.

10 As Claims 2-5 and 8-12 are dependent upon the independent claim 1, they should be allowable if the amended claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of Claims 2-5 and 8-12 is therefore politely requested.

4. Rejection of claims 13 under 103(a):

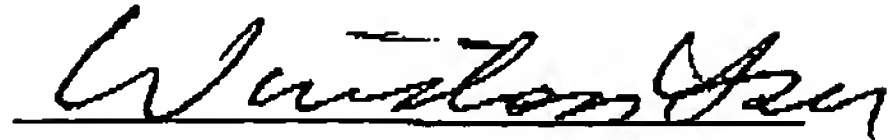
15 Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), for reasons of record that can be found on pages 4-5 in the Office action identified above, which is part of paper No.1203.

20 To overcome this objection, Claim 13 has been amended. The limitation in Claim 17 that is found allowable by the Examiner has been added into Claim 13. No new matter is introduced. Reconsideration of the once-amended claim 13 is therefore respectfully requested.

25 As Claims 14-16 and 18-23 are dependent upon the independent claim 13, they should be allowable if the amended claim 13 is allowed. Reconsideration of Claims 14-16 and 18-23 is therefore politely requested.

Sincerely yours,

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(Please contact me by e-mail if you need a telephone communication and I will return your call promptly.)

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